

The

XMAS EDITION

No. 5

Beatles

**DEC.
1963**

MONTHLY

BOOK



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The Beatles BOOK

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EDITOR: JOHNNY DEAN

Beatles cartoons by Bob Gibson

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Editorial

Hi!

JOHN, PAUL, GEORGE and RINGO have really zoomed to the top of the British show-biz tree during the past few months! Most other chart-toppers have had to wait a year or two before being invited to do a Royal Command Performance. BUT NOT THE BEATLES! And if anyone thought they would end up feeling a little bit lost on such a big occasion—they would have been very, very wrong!

BUT THE AMAZING FACT IS—SUCCESS DOES NOT CHANGE THEM! Anyone could be forgiven for becoming a little bit big-headed when they start breaking every record in the book—but, NOT J. P., G., and R. It's just one big party to them. And you're invited.

WE'RE PRINTING A SPECIAL EXTRA for the Santa season. It's a really fab BEATLES CALENDAR for 1964. Full details are on page 21.

THE BOYS LOVE APPLAUSE, CLAPPING, SCREAMS. THE LOT. BUT, only AFTER they have finished singing. They often say to me: "wouldn't it be marvellous if everyone in the audience saved it up till the end of each number and then let rip." What about it Beatle People?

LOTS OF READERS HAVE WRITTEN in asking if they can buy any of the original glossy pix we have printed in past issues. Well, now you can. There's a choice of eight 10 x 8's you can choose from on page 31.

FINALLY MAY ALL OF US AT THE BEATLES BOOK WISH EVERY BEATLE PERSON A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR.

See you all in 1964.

Johnny Dean

Editor.

The boys relax—John goes through some of your cards with George, Paul catches up on the latest chart moves and Ringo gets set to take some shots with his new camera.





The Official Beatles FAN CLUB

First Floor, Service House,

13 Monmouth Street, London, W.C.2.

NEWSLETTER

December 1963

Dear Beatle People,

Between now and Christmas every member of the Official Fan Club will receive by post a free copy of THE BEATLES' CHRISTMAS RECORD. We want to emphasise that ONLY Beatle People whose subscriptions and completed application forms were received by our office BEFORE DECEMBER 1 qualify for this specially produced Christmas gift from our fabulous foursome.

If you are a member and you have not received your record by Saturday, 14th December, please write in to us immediately giving your name, address and (if known) your membership number. MARK THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR ENVELOPE "CHRISTMAS RECORD" IN BLOCK CAPITAL LETTERS. Unfortunately we will be unable to supply extra copies of the record—we have to stick to a strict ruling of one disc per member.

We are looking forward to meeting something like 6,000 members at the two December Fan Club Conventions — at the Liverpool Odeon on Saturday, 7th December, and at London's Wimbledon Palais on Saturday, 14th December. We didn't like having to refuse so many thousands of other members whose applications for Get Together tickets were unsuccessful but, on the other hand, if we had held these two Convention sessions in larger venues it would have meant losing the informal atmosphere of a Fan Club Get Together altogether.

On behalf of ourselves and the rest of our Fan Club staff—including the scores of Area Secretaries throughout the country—we'd like to take this opportunity of wishing all Beatles Book readers a very Happy Christmas and Good Health throughout 1964.

Lots of good luck,

Bettina Rose

Anne Collingham

BETTINA ROSE,

ANNE COLLINGHAM,

Joint National Secretaries of The Official Beatles Fan Club

Recently Appointed Area Secretaries :

Suffolk: Miss Nina Bowdler, 12 Bunting Road, Chantry Estate, Ipswich, Suffolk.
Lincolnshire: Miss Anne Coates, 12 Hawthorne Avenue, Cleethorpes, Lincs.
Huntingdon and Cambridgeshire: Miss Gillian Bolton, 5 Home Close, Hilston, Cambridge.
Cornwall: Miss Sandra Hudson, "Bramcote," Tregrehan Mills, St. Austell, Cornwall.
Rutland and Leicestershire: Miss Shirley Simms, 307 New Parks Blvd., Braunstone Frith, Leicester
Northamptonshire: Miss Julie Handley, 1 Moulton Lane, Boughton, Northampton.
Shropshire: Miss Susanne Durands, 5 Springfield Green, Springfield Estate, Shrewsbury, Salop.
North and East Yorkshire: Miss Christine Maureen, 7 Thomas Street, Newskelton, Yorkshire.



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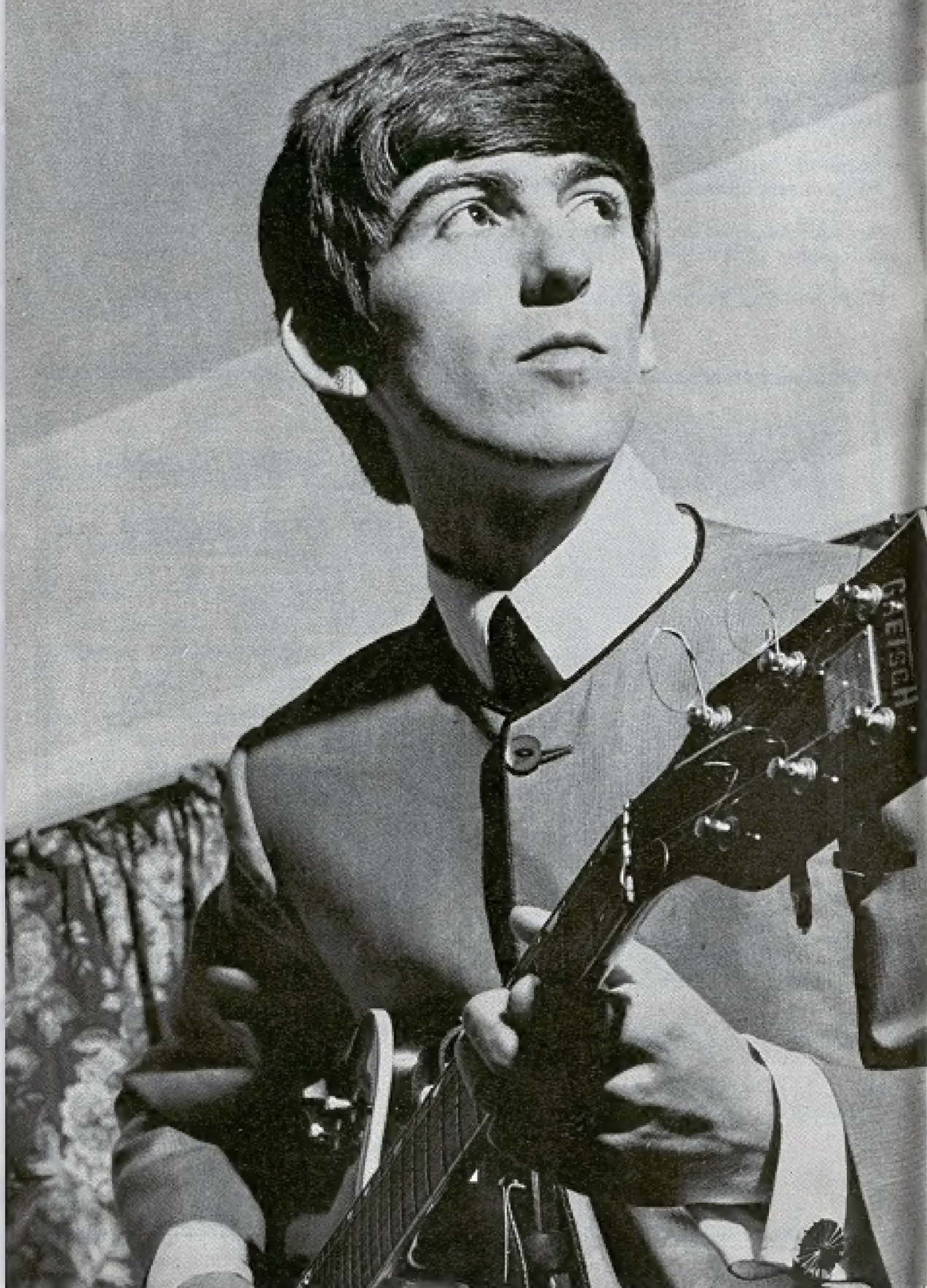
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A TALE OF FOUR BEATLES

by Billy Shepherd

PART IV

And so the Beatles, with two experience-garnering trips to Germany behind them, got back to Liverpool. A swingin' scene . . . and they were very much a part of it. It was the end of June, 1961.

But though they liked having more money to spend, they hadn't the foggiest idea of just how much they were worth. The offers came in. Anything between £6 and £14 was the pay-packet, to be shared between Messrs. Lennon, McCartney, Harrison and drummer Pete Best.

"We just didn't know," admits George. "We loved the work, the excitement. We didn't realise we were often being exploited. But it was hard work and somehow we didn't seem to have much money in the kitty after we'd kept our equipment up to scratch . . ."

July, 1961, could go down as a summit meeting in Merseybeat history. A steamy, summery, shimmery night at Litherland Town Hall. A young promoter named Brian Kelly announced his attraction: The Beatmakers.

George Harrison was on lead guitar. Paul McCartney on rhythm. John Lennon on piano. Drummers were Pete Best and Freddie Marsden. Les Maguire operated on saxophone, Les Chadwick on bass guitar—and Gerry Marsden nipped on and off behind a big grin to take the vocals.

Gerry and the Pacemakers and the Beatles had linked up. For one night only and for a fee which is the smallest fraction of what they'd command for such a show now.

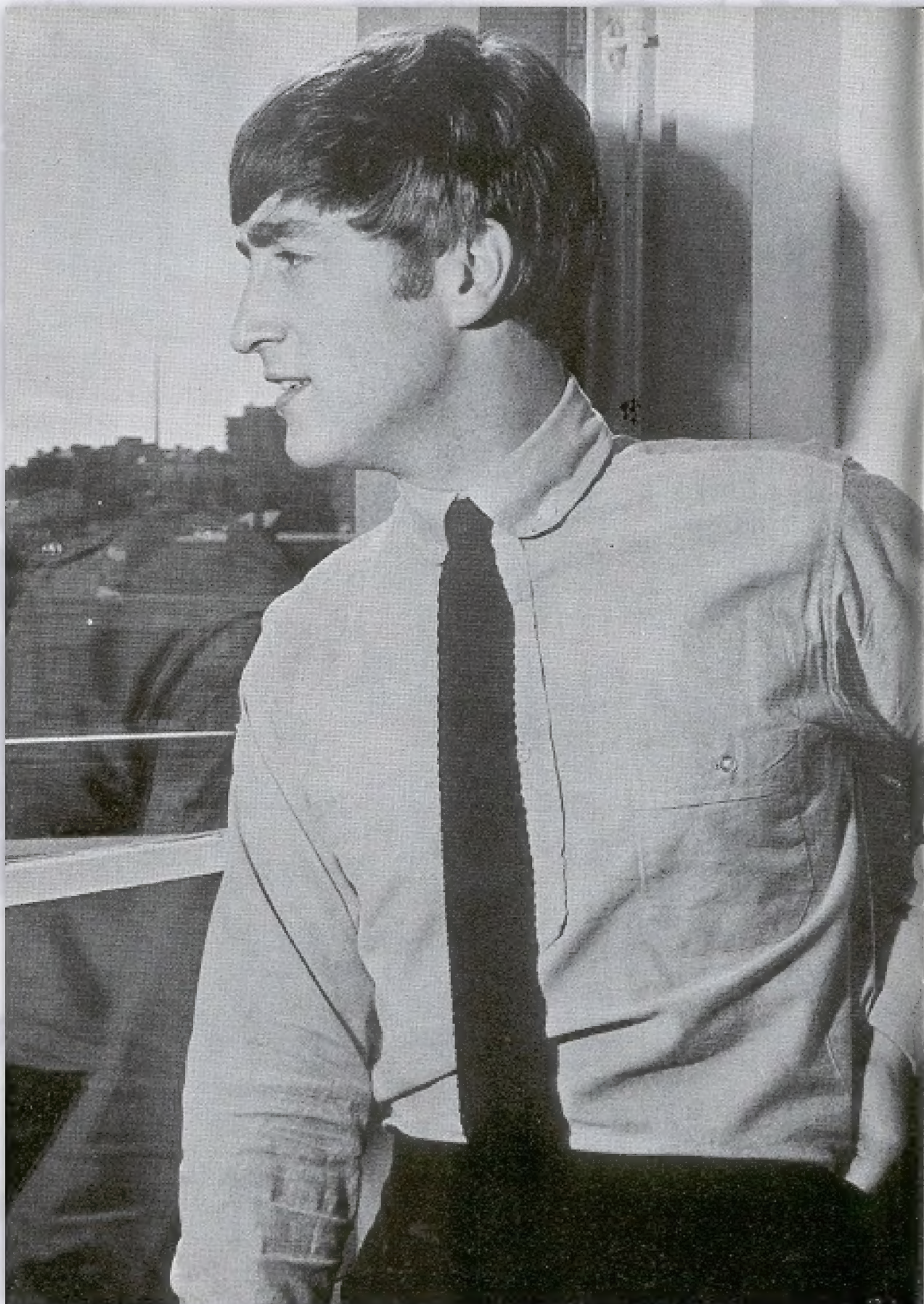
It led to friendships between the group members . . . but it didn't seem to be leading to that pot of gold at the end of the rainbow for the Beatles.

Says John: "We went on knocking ourselves out night after night but somehow there was a bit of frustration creeping in to it all. It didn't seem to be leading anywhere."

But the audiences were greatly appreciative.

SAYS Paul: "We started accepting dates further south. We got pretty near London on some of them. No change of material for us—still the stuff that went down so well in Germany. But we were veering away from the leather gear. Don't make this sound big-headed, but the fact is that a lot of other groups were copying the way we looked on stage. So we changed to more ordinary clothes for a while."

But in September, depression set in. Paul and John took themselves off to Paris for a holiday. They remember being flat broke. Remember having to search through every pocket to rake up enough francs for a Coke. Now, of course, they can go where they please and not count the cost.



And George and Pete stayed on in Liverpool, virtually lost to the beat scene. Ray McFall, owner of the Cavern Club remembers seeing Messrs. Harrison and Best around at the lunch-time sessions but they seemed dispirited. They took a lot of persuading even to join in on the impromptu roar-ups.

Let well-known Liverpool show compere Bob Wooler fill in the background to this black spot in the Beatles' history.

"I've known the boys since the early days. I've been a long-time admirer. What they really needed was a manager in those far-off days. They seemed content not to argue about the fees they were offered. And they didn't seem to realise that they were pulling in crowds on the strength of their own name and performance.

"After all, they had to live. They had to look after their equipment—and they often had travelling expenses to pay. It's all very well being popular and enjoying your work, but you should be paid what you're worth as well.

"Ray McFall at the Cavern was different. If the crowd was good, he upped the fee. That's why the boys have always been so loyal to the Cavern. But you can understand them being puzzled at the lack of hard cash from their other venues where they were so often doubling the attendances."

Paul and John were meanwhile spending a lot of time on their song-writing. You'll see how much they'd already achieved in this direction as the story pushes on to the first recording days.

John and Paul could never sit down and simply write a song to order. They admit: "We have to wait for the ideas to arrive. It can happen anywhere. On a bus, or a train, or backstage at a dance-hall or theatre. Sometimes the title suggests itself first. Then we get going on the words and music. Sometimes we've finished a very successful seller in less than an hour."

BUT their most pressing need at this time was for a manager. Paul has told me: "When we first started on paid jobs, we honestly thought we weren't manageable. We thought nobody would want to bother with us. We were a pretty off-beat bunch of characters, to say the least.

And we had a sense of humour which somehow involved us all and which was hardly in the interests of discipline. So, for a long time, we just didn't take any notice of the advice that we should be properly handled. 'Who'd WANT US,' was the way we thought . . .

"And that's where we went wrong . . ."

A MANAGER. Liverpool man Alan Williams took on the chore for a while . . . he now runs the Blue Angel Club on Merseyside.

But the man who was to make show business history with the Beatles knew nothing about the group in that September of 1961. That man, of course, was Brian Epstein, one-time drama student, member of a family which owned a chain of furniture and radio-TV stores in Liverpool.



He was not exactly WITH the beat scene. But he WAS in touch with the public taste through his work in the record department of the stores. He'd been there for five years, building up the business, enlarging the staff roster and increasing the turnover.

And in September, 1961, he was a puzzled man. Fans kept approaching him with: "Have you any records by the Beatles?" Brian mused. Pondered. Wondered. One young lad was particularly persistent in his demands. Brian dug deep into the record-lists. And found reference to that "My Bonnie" single, recorded in Germany, on which the Beatles played a strictly supporting role to guitar-star Tony Sheridan.

"I became Beatle-conscious for a while," he says. "I always tried to work on



the theory that the customer was right—and if they wanted the Beatles, well . . . I'd do my best to supply the Beatles. Eventually I traced the source and ordered some 200 copies for the record-stores. They sold quickly . . .

"Then out of the blue I heard they were Liverpool boys, had a rapidly-growing following—and were actually playing in a club near the store. It was a place that I'm sure I'd visited before, a sort of teenage gathering-place, but I really didn't know much about it.

"After a while, I thought I'd better pop down there and see what all the fuss was about."

BRIAN Epstein went to the Cavern. Met the Beatles. And things really started happening for the ambitious but not-too-sure group.

There are two ways of looking at this near-historic meeting. Brian Epstein's. And the Beatles' viewpoint.

Beatles first. Said George: "He started talking to us about the record that had created the demand. We didn't know much about him but he seemed very interested in us and also a little bit baffled.

"He came back several times and talked to us. It seemed there was something he wanted to say, but he wouldn't come out with it. He just kind of watched us and studied what we were doing. One day, he took us to the store and introduced us. We thought he looked rather red and embarrassed about it all.

"Eventually, he started talking about becoming our manager. Well, we hadn't really had anybody actually VOLUNTEER in that sense. At the same time, he was very honest about it all—you know, like saying he didn't really know anything about managing a group like us. He sort of hinted that he was keen if we'd go along with him . . ."

Brian, quite honestly, thought the Beatles looked a mess. He wondered what exactly they thought they were trying to be. Their strange jackets, the rather scruffy jeans, the hair-styles which could only have been styled on something called "chaos."

"But there was something enormously attractive about them," he recalls. "I liked the way they worked and the obvious

enthusiasm they put into their numbers. People talk about the Liverpool sound but I sometimes wonder what exactly they mean. These boys put everything into their routines but they didn't use echo. That struck me as being a very good thing.

"It was the boys themselves, though, who really swung it. Each had something which I could see would be highly commercial if only someone could push it to the top. They were DIFFERENT characters but they were so obviously part of the whole. Quite frankly, I was excited about their prospects, provided some things could be changed."

And Brian told his friends: "This could easily turn out to be the biggest show business attraction since Elvis Presley." It's a tribute to his foresight and intuition that that is precisely what has happened.

Brian decided to get the boys together at a round-table conference at his store. A time was fixed and the boys agreed. But Beatles are not always the easiest of people to organise. Brian sat waiting . . . and waiting . . . and waiting. He was trying to cope with the vastly complex figures of Christmas orders for the store and minutes were precious to him.



Eventually THREE Beatles arrived. George, John and Pete. No Paul. Story goes that Brian got George to ring through and see what had happened to the left-handed guitar-star. And that Paul admitted he was still in the bath . . . but wouldn't be long!



Brian was rather on his high-horse. He felt it was not the right thing for someone who wanted to talk business to be kept waiting. He pointed out that Paul, the cherubic one of the four, would be extremely late. "Yes," said George, forcing back a grin. "But he'll also be extremely clean."

Says Brian: "That sense of humour is invaluable. You could hardly feel annoyed at their lack of business ability. They were just four individual and off-beat characters."

Prior to Brian taking such an interest, there was great concern among Cavern people that there was a chance of the Beatles packing in all thoughts of show business careers. Bob Wooler had tried hard to get BBC television producer Jack Good interested in the group. Jack had produced beat shows, like "Six-Five Special" which had been the stepping-stone to success for artistes like Cliff Richard. But Jack was also in demand in the States . . . and he'd gone there to further his own career long before Bob could get any decision from the telly-folk.

BRIAN, having eventually assembled all four Beatles in the same room, put his propositions to them. He went through a process of brain-washing, though he did it all very tactfully. He didn't like their manner of dress. Wasn't knocked out by the unruly hair-cuts. Was singularly unimpressed by the way they casually drank tea on stage while in the middle of shows.

He pleaded with them rather than ordered them. He knew they were a valuable property and he was knocked out at the way their personal following was growing through the Merseyside area.

Said John: "He'd tell us that jeans were not particularly smart and could we possibly manage to wear PROPER trousers. But he didn't want us suddenly looking square. He let us have our own sense of individuality."

He added: "We respected his views. We stopped champing at cheese rolls and jam butties on stage. We paid a lot more attention to what we were doing. Did our best to be on time. And we smartened up, in the sense that we wore suits instead of any sloppy old clothes."

It was a master-plan. A long-term plan if necessary but it was aimed at making the most of four young men who clearly had that star quality in them . . . even though a recording contract was still more than nine months away.

Obviously, Brian Epstein's main job was to get the group on record. He knew the strength of their popularity in Liverpool and he felt it wouldn't be a hard job to interest some of the London companies. But that was where Brian was wrong.

He even delayed any sort of action until the results of the 1961 "Mersey Beat Poll" were announced. That came up at the end of the year. And the Beatles were high and dry in top place in this important survey of how the public felt about the myriad groups operating in the scene. Said Brian: "I thought this was the 'Open Sesame' to the recording scene. I felt that Liverpool was important enough to have London executives falling about to sign the boys. I was wrong . . ."

Brian, though technically still in charge of important parts of the family business, threw himself into the job of getting the Beatles known nationally. He had the backing of the Beatles' parents and it was to be no holds barred for the major break through.



He started visiting London. Hopefully. Optimistically. But record executives showed an alarming tendency to register non-committal gloom. Brian had to keep reporting apparent failure to the boys—by now riding higher than ever in popular acclaim in Liverpool.

Cont'd next month in No. 6



*Have a fab Christmas
and a gear New Year*

*And a big thank you
for all you have done
for us during 1963*

Georg Paul

John Ringo







LETTERS *from* BEATLE PEOPLE

Dear Johnny,

Concerning names for the BEATLES' hair-cuts, my friend's Dad, calls it the "Prestige Cut," after Prestige pens and pens which your mother puts on your head and . . . (you know the rest).

Why don't the Beatles write a song for Beryl Marsden? the combination sounds great to me.

Love,

Janice Sanderson,

(No relation to Sharon in Nov's edition).

28 Lindadale Avenue,

Accrington.

Dear Anne,

There I was sitting minding my own business, with the record-player throbbing softly to a current pop-song. When wham!!! suddenly wild whoops came from next door. Are we being invaded? Is this the four minute warning? Or could it be, maybe . . . yes! The source of the passionate cries and yells was found. Then the letter-box gave a faint rattle and sailing through the air it came THE BEATLES BOOK NO. 4. Snatching it from the mat I broke into wild, ecstatic screaming and yelling. Like a mad thing I raced up and down the wall and waltzed with the terrified dog, who, the minute, the very second its paws touched the floor, ran hell for leather to its basket.

After the first electrifying effect I collapsed into a little heap, sighing.

The slow record was flung from the record-player and the Beatle L.P. was reverently placed on the turntable. As Paul belted out "I Saw Her Standing There," I opened my Beatle Book, and melted as Paul's handsome, suntanned face stared up at me, collapsed into giggles over John and sighed over George and Ringo.

This transformation into a crazy, screaming, yelling beatlenik from a plain ordinary beatlenik comes every time I see a picture of those four Liverpudlians with their basin-cuts gently waving in the breeze.

"Encore mes Amies," which translated means, "keep up with the good work boys." (boys?)

Susan Deeson,

3 Heol Edwards,

Tawelfryn, Nr. Cardiff.

Dear RINGO, PAUL, JOHN and GEORGE,

One day when we were enjoying one of our mad fits, we wrote this:—

ODE TO THE BEATLES

Our gang: all saw you on the tele!
We all agree you're really fab.
And even loving Babes of Jelly
To us does not seem really mad!
We're all a wee bit gone you see,
'Specially on BEATLES spelt "EA" not "EE,"
We love you really through and through,
As for coming to see us, we sure hope you do!
Ringo's for She, and Andy wants Paul,
But John Winston Lennon is loved by us all.
No-one could come between George and
our Jan,

She really intends to make him her man!
When you came to the Ritz in Rhyl, we were
there,

D'you remember a girl with dark, floppy hair?
Andy is sure that George grinned her way,
And Jan's still mad at her from that very day!
My dear friend Elayne dig's John the most,
And wishes he could be sent by post.
But the thing that causes the loudest racket,
Is when George goes mad, and yells out
"BRACKITS"!!!

In the summer to the Odeon Llandudno, we
went,

And for a fab half-hour, we were sent,
John's "Clap yer hands and stamp yer feet!"
Sure livened the place up a treat!
Andy just couldn't live without Paul,
She says she likes him best of all.
Loving Ringo keeps She going,
And we could certainly keep this poem flowing.
BUT!

To the post-box I must sprint,
With hopes that the Ed. will take pity and print
This rhyme (it could fill a page or two)!
So please remember, "P.S. WE LOVE YOU"

All our love from,

She (alias RINGO)!

Andy (alias Paul)!

Jan (alias George)!

Elayne (alias John)

And all the girls in the Fifth Form of Abergele Grammar School.

P.S. Enclosed is a bit of Sheila's (She's) hair for guess who? . . . Yes—Ringo!

Dear Beatleditor,

Today at work I was quite seriously asked what is the Science of Beatles. I thought perhaps Liverpoolology would be it, but then of course that also includes other species, such as Pacc-makers and Searchers.

Please tell me, is there really a science of Beatles, (or Beetles)?

Yours,
Jean,
Croydon.

P.S. Up the Lads!

Dear Johnny,

Help! Please, I must have the recipe for "jam butties." Can any of the BEATLES come to my rescue.

All the best,
Kathy Heard,
93 Bush Hill Road,
Winchmore Hill,
London, N.21

Ringo answers:—

Take two slices of bread, butter them, add jam and munch away. "Butties is scouse for sandwiches!"

Dear Beatles,

Here is my "Alphabeatlebet"! I hope you like it, 'cos I like you.

A's for Appearing in a show, B is for Beatles, we all know. C is for Clamour (by the Fans) for more, D is for Dashing through a side door. E's for Escape to hotel from stage, F's for Fans, over you they rage. G's for George (what a lotta hair he's got!) H is for Hopeless, something you're NOT! I is for IDOLS (smashin' you be!) J is for John (with Jnr. 'pon knee?) K is for Krazy, 'scuse spelling. L's for "Lots' more!" the fans are yelling. M is for manager, one of the best! N is for NO (or hardly) a rest. O is for "Oh!" (What next?) P is for Paul with the face of a Tot, Q is for questions, you answer a lot! R is for Ringo, the best there can be. S is for Starr. Naturally! T is for "Top," you're always there, U is for Us who can only stare at the Very best who are Wonderful? Xciting? Yes, yes, yes! And Zey are my fave group!

Yours,
Rosy,
(aged only 14)
56 John Nicholls Street,
Hinckley, Leics.

Dear Miss Collingham, Mr. Dean, Beatles, etc.

For sometime now I have been reading articles on how popular the Beatles are in America (or anywhere else for that matter!) but I didn't think it was possible for Americans to rave over any British stars as this is so rare: So I wrote to my pen-pal who lives in Erie who replied, "I've got news for you girl, the Beatles are the hottest things since Elvis recorded 'You Ain't Nothin' but a Hound Dog' and boy, is that GOOD!"

She also asked her friend Sheila about George who said— "Aaagh' oooh! Don't ever sneak up on me like that and say that NAME I might faint!"

So if the Beatles go to America I think they might have a good welcome in Erie.

So the best of luck to you boys—but don't forget, when you're off travelling the world seeing your millions of fans, there are a load of girls at home who love you the most of all!

Best wishes for a fab mag!
(Miss*) Kim Howell,

"I wrote "miss" as many people think Kim is a dog!

129 Staines Road,
Ilford, Essex.

George answers:—

You don't write like a dog Kim! Thanks for the American tip-off.

Dear John Lennon, c/o Beatle Book,

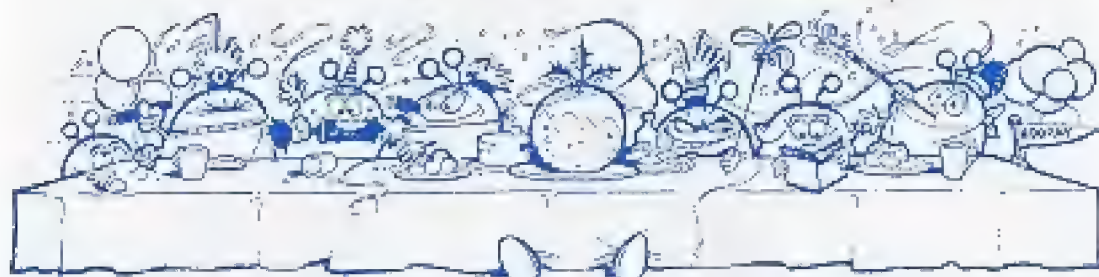
I won't go into detail about the great lengths I go to, not to miss a single opportunity of seeing or hearing the Beatles, or about the numerous photos or mags, that I have, on my favourite subject. I won't say a word about my Beatle disc collection (including "My Bonnie"). I won't try to prove that I'm their No. 1 fan, or mention the many times I've been caught out at the office with my head stuck in a filing cabinet, listening to "Pop Go The Beatles" on my transistor.

I will say that they are really fab, particularly John Lennon. I was bitterly disappointed not to get tickets for the Beatles in Birmingham, is there a possibility that they will be back again next year?

One request please Johnny Dean, pics of John Lennon with his glasses. I think he's the greatest.

A Birmingham Beatle-ite,
Birmingham.

Pics of John with glasses coming up soon—J. D.







No. 6

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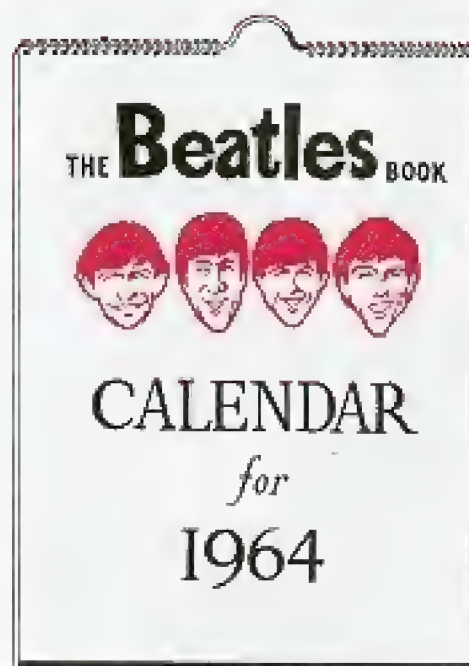
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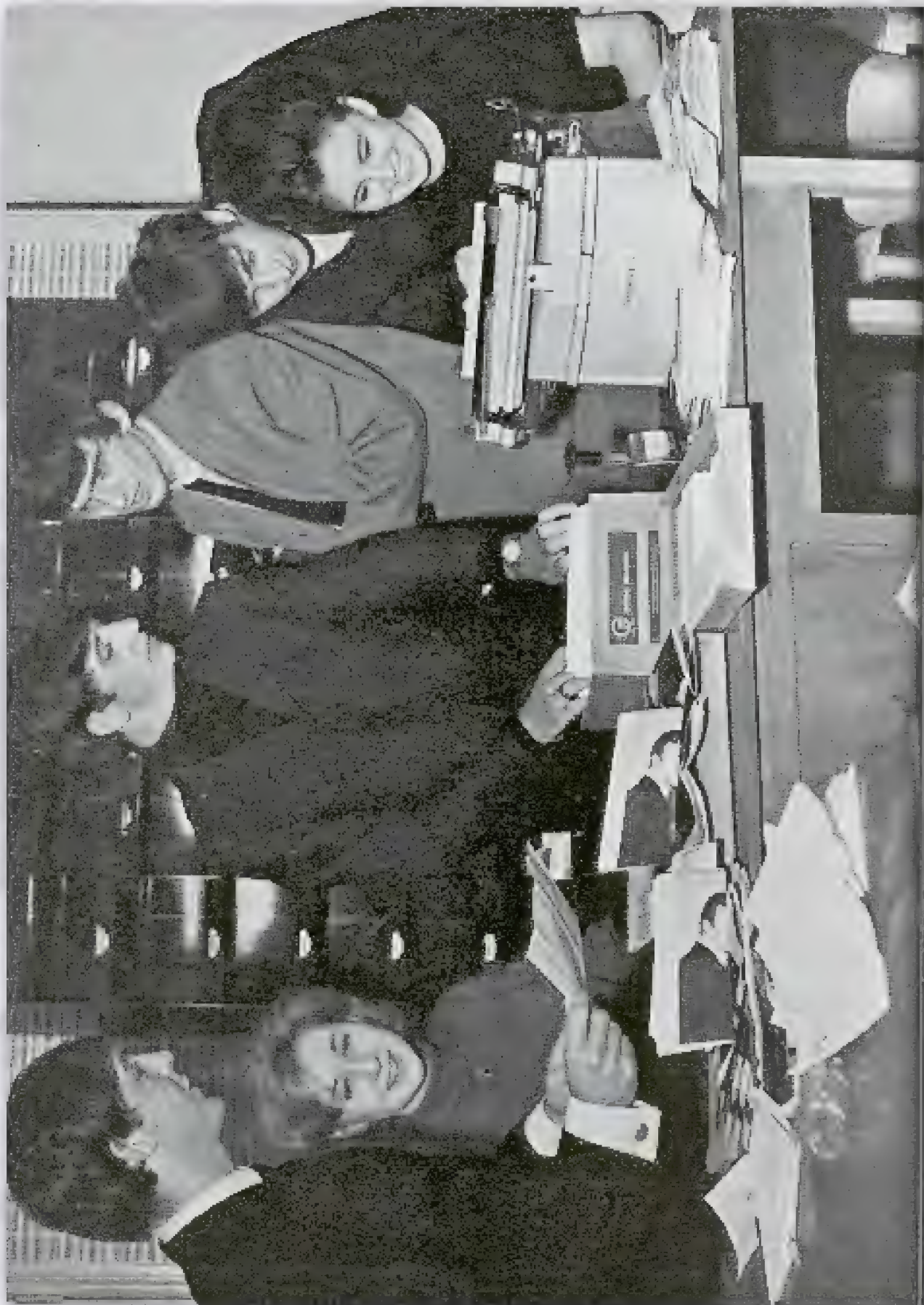
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Their Fan Club Secretaries

ANNE COLLINGHAM & BETTINA ROSE

ONE OF THE busiest little offices in London's West End must surely be the one occupied by The Official Beatles Fan Club. Mail doesn't arrive via the local postman any more. It is delivered from G.P.O. vans in batches of bulging sacks!

When I called the place was a hive of industry. Two girls were opening mail as fast as their fingers could split the envelopes. A young man named Anthony Catchpole was pushing letters through a franking machine. The Club's Joint National Secretaries, Anne Collingham and Bettina Rose, were filling up Membership Cards from two enormous stacks of completed applications.

Area Secretaries

THERE was a big map of the British Isles on the wall.

"The pins show exactly where all our Area Secretaries live" explained Anne.

"The heavy black lines show how we've divided the country into areas, county by county" added Bettina.

"The boys couldn't hope to answer all the letters which are written to them" said Anne.

"They come into the office every time they've a minute to spare" Bettina told me "and collect the gifts members have sent in. If they can't write back themselves they dictate personal letters to thank members for the really special gifts."

"At birthday times sacks and sacks of cards come in and we forward them on to the boys."

Loads of Queries

IT'S impossible for us to answer all the Club's query letters any more. Actually this is supposed to be the responsibility of the Area

Secretaries, but we still get stacks of letters asking questions about each of The Beatles. The most popular questions are answered on the letters page of The Beatles Book—but lots of people still ask the same things even after an answer has been published."

"When The Beatles are on tour" declared Bettina "We're snowed under with requests to go backstage. If we found a way of saying 'yes' to one it wouldn't be fair on everyone else. Theatre managers have the say on this sort of thing—it isn't possible for us to give permission or authority. All we can do is arrange Get Together Conventions."

Until the middle of this year the fan club was organised in two sections—by Freda Kelly in Liverpool for the North and by Bettina Rose in Surrey for the South. In June 18-year-old Anne Collingham came in to centralise the whole system from new London headquarters. Anne, who hails from Islington, North London, helped to set up the network of Area Secretaries.

Freda Kelly continued to look after the Lancashire section of the new National Club.

Beatle Mad

I WAS converted to The Beatles" says Anne "I used to be an out and out modern jazz fan. The Top Twenty didn't really interest me until The Beatles came along. I realised that they had a quality, an excitement, an individuality which no other British or American recording group had ever shown. Ever since then I've been Beatle mad. It's hard work running the club—I seldom leave the office before seven and then both Bettina and I take home work to do in the evenings—but I wouldn't swap my job!"

Bettina Rose, 20, lives in Richmond. Long before the National Headquarters was

set up Tina had organised the first Southern branch of the club from her home.

"I was working as a secretary at ATV then" Tina told me "I spent three hours every evening dealing with Club correspondence and my younger brother, Terry worked with me all Saturday and Sunday."

At the beginning of October Anne asked her to come and work full-time at the new Club offices as Joint National Secretary.

"I accepted like a shot. You don't mind putting in extra hours when you're doing a job you really enjoy, do you?" she said.

Beatles Sweaters

ON top of all their usual chores, Anne and Tina have been organising the production of a Beatles Sweater in recent weeks.

"We realised our own office couldn't cope with the orders" said Tina "So we arranged with a mail order firm, Weldon of Peckham Limited, to handle orders by post."

On my way out of the Club H.Q. I passed between two mountainous piles of seven-inch envelopes.

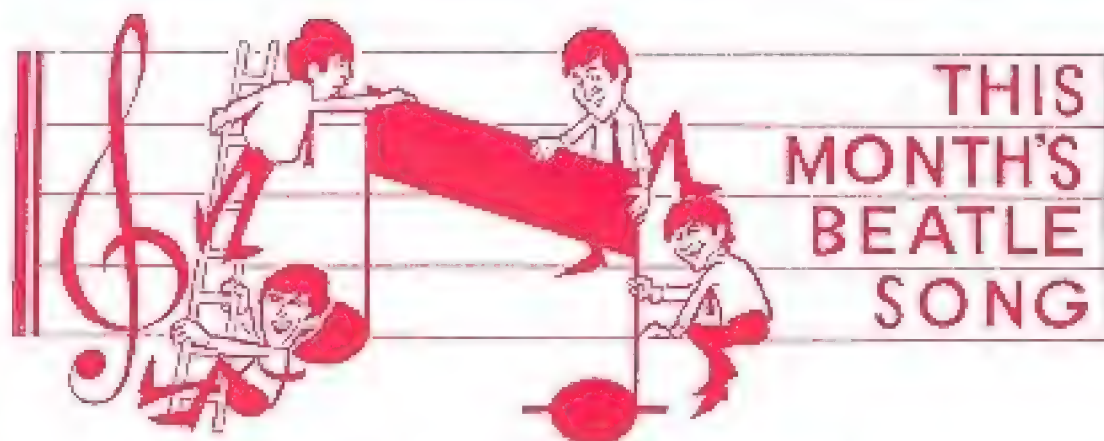
"Those are copies of The Beatles Christmas Record" said Anne. "The tape was made on the same day that The Beatles recorded their new single. It's hilarious. They do bits of 'Rudolph' and 'Good King Wenceslas.' Ringo does a swing version of the carol in a sort of Billy Eckstine-Billy Daniels voice!"

This will be the only 1963 record by The Beatles which DOESN'T top the charts—but I bet it is a Number One favourite with the members of The Official Beatles Fan Club!

FREDERICK JAMES



The boys help Tina (left) and Anne with the mail.



I Saw Her Standing There

Written and Composed by **JOHN LENNON and PAUL McCARTNEY**

Recorded by The Beatles on their Album Please, Please, Me.

Well she was just seventeen
You know what I mean
And the way she looked was way beyond compare
So how could I dance with another, Oh when I saw
her standing there.

Well she looked at me
And I, I could see
That before too long I'd fall in love with her
She wouldn't dance with another, Oh when I saw
her standing there.

Well my heart went zoom
When I crossed that room
And I held her hand in mine

Oh we danced through the night
And we held each other tight
And before too long I fell in love with her
Now I'll never dance with another, Oh when I saw
her standing there.

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"I Saw Her Standing There" was the first track on the Beatles record-breaking debut album Sung by John and Paul together in their own highly original way. A rather different version has been waxed by Duffy Power also on the Parlophone label. The composition is unusual as there is only a three line "middle."

No, that's not a real live beetle on John's shoulder, it's only made of chocolate!







THE EARLY DAYS

by

Raymond McGhee

THE EARLY BEATLES were wild. Really wild. During their frenzied act John might kiss the microphone or suddenly jump several feet into the air, splitting his old blue jeans in the process. It was just an occupational hazard.

The jokes came hard and fast, too. The group quickly built up a fervent following on Merseyside. They worked without a continuous barrage of screams—and so they could exploit their musical Goonery to the full.

Many of today's screaming fans fail to realise how much zany Beatle comedy they're missing by simply not giving the group a chance to speak between numbers.

Mainly For Kicks

BUT back to those first formative years on Merseyside, when they played for a few shillings whenever work happened to turn up. Most of the people who knew them got the impression they liked to play and sing mainly for kicks.

It was fun. But they didn't really have a driving ambition to get to the top.

What they needed (and they admit it themselves now!) was a little discipline. Says John of himself: "I know I went a bit off the rails when I was about 14. I more or less drifted about, and when I was put in for nine GCE's at school I was a terrible failure.

"I was like that all the time I was at school. Art was the only thing I was interested in, and in the end my headmaster said that if I didn't go to art school I might as well become a labourer!"

Art Student John

EVEN though art was his strongest subject, John still confesses that he wasn't too happy at the idea of studying it for any length of time. He felt that he would be surrounded by a crowd of bearded, would-be Van Goghs with whom he would have little in common.

"It didn't turn out quite like that," he adds, "but I was so concerned with music that I hardly spent any time there. I suppose I was a bit of a contrast to Paul—he liked art, too, but he studied his other subjects and got through his exams."

The free-and-easy student life had a great effect on John.

For a time he used to rehearse with George and Paul, quite casually, in a room in Gambia Street across the road from the Liverpool College of Art. And for a while he had a flat that looked like something from the Left Bank in Paris when you stepped inside . . . rather untidy, with paintings hung all over the walls. Another artist lived next door.

Bob Wooler

SOMEONE who's known the Beatles almost from the start of their musical career is Bob Wooler, a good friend and the genial host of the Cavern beat club in Liverpool. In fact, the group would be the first to admit that he helped them a lot in their early days by lining up bookings. Without the work he got them they might have drifted apart.

"My impression? Well, they were dishevelled and unkempt. They looked sort of beatnik-y, with leather jackets and faded jeans. People thought they were German.

"Their hair was long then, but not in the style they have

it now. It just went anywhere, more or less!

"In spite of their scruffiness, though, they had a sound and a visual impact that left its mark. You might even say they were turning back the Rock-Clock at that time, but they didn't care. Their attitude was that they liked what they were doing, and you could take it or leave it."

Early Friend

RECALLING his first booking for the group, Bob says he asked the dance promoter for £8; the promoter offered £4; and they settled for £6.

Bob is as happy as anyone at the Beatles' fantastic success today. "They were always an electrifying act," he adds, "and they still are. I suppose I could have had the opportunity of managing them at one time, but I was content just to get bookings. And to be quite honest, I don't think I would have been temperamentally suited to managing.

"Brian Epstein has done a really tremendous job for them and I have nothing but praise for the way he has handled their career."

The Beatles looked on Bob as more than a friend in those days. They would call him in whenever there was a particularly big decision to be made.

As time went by, Beatlemania hit Merseyside. Hundreds, sometimes a couple of thousand, would turn up to see the group at local dances.

It had never happened before—it was like a fanatical devotion to some big national idol, but on a strictly-local scale. Quite often visiting national stars didn't stand a chance when the local pride and joy, the Beatles, were appearing in the area the same night.





GREATEST EVER "I WANT TO HOLD YOUR HAND" c/w "THIS BOY"

THE BEATLES new single has already smashed a whole lot of new records. No disc company has ever pressed over 500,000 copies of anything before its release.

But the fantastic demand must be met—even if it takes every machine at the E.M.I. factory. The boys actually cut their new one several weeks ago but its release has been delayed due to the continued chart-topping by "She Loves You."

SWEDISH GIRLS

"They're great," said Paul, when I asked him what he thought of the Swedish teenagers. "But it was a bit difficult playing with one on my back. Two girls jumped up on to the stage one night and one climbed on me and the other on George."

Police Help Neil

Says road manager Neil Aspinall: "My job is much easier these days because the police surround us whenever we have to get through a crowd. They never seem to get fed up or anything, many of them ask for autographs."

DODD DIGS HIS FELLOW LIVERPUDS

Ken Dodd—seen here with the boys—says, "I was very pleased to have The Beatles in my show as I think they are a great group—and after all, we talk the same language—it's the draught from the Mersey Tunnel which causes the Liverpool accent."

SIR BEATLES

What if they got knighted! After that terrific performance in the Royal Command show anything could happen. Just imagine—Sir John, Sir Paul, Sir George and Sir Ringo. Seriously though, there's

lots of speculation as to who are the big Beatles fans in the Royal Family. Most backers go for Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon being in the lead but they all seemed to go for the beat kings and their kind of music at the show.

BEWARE OF BOGUS BEATLE CLUBS

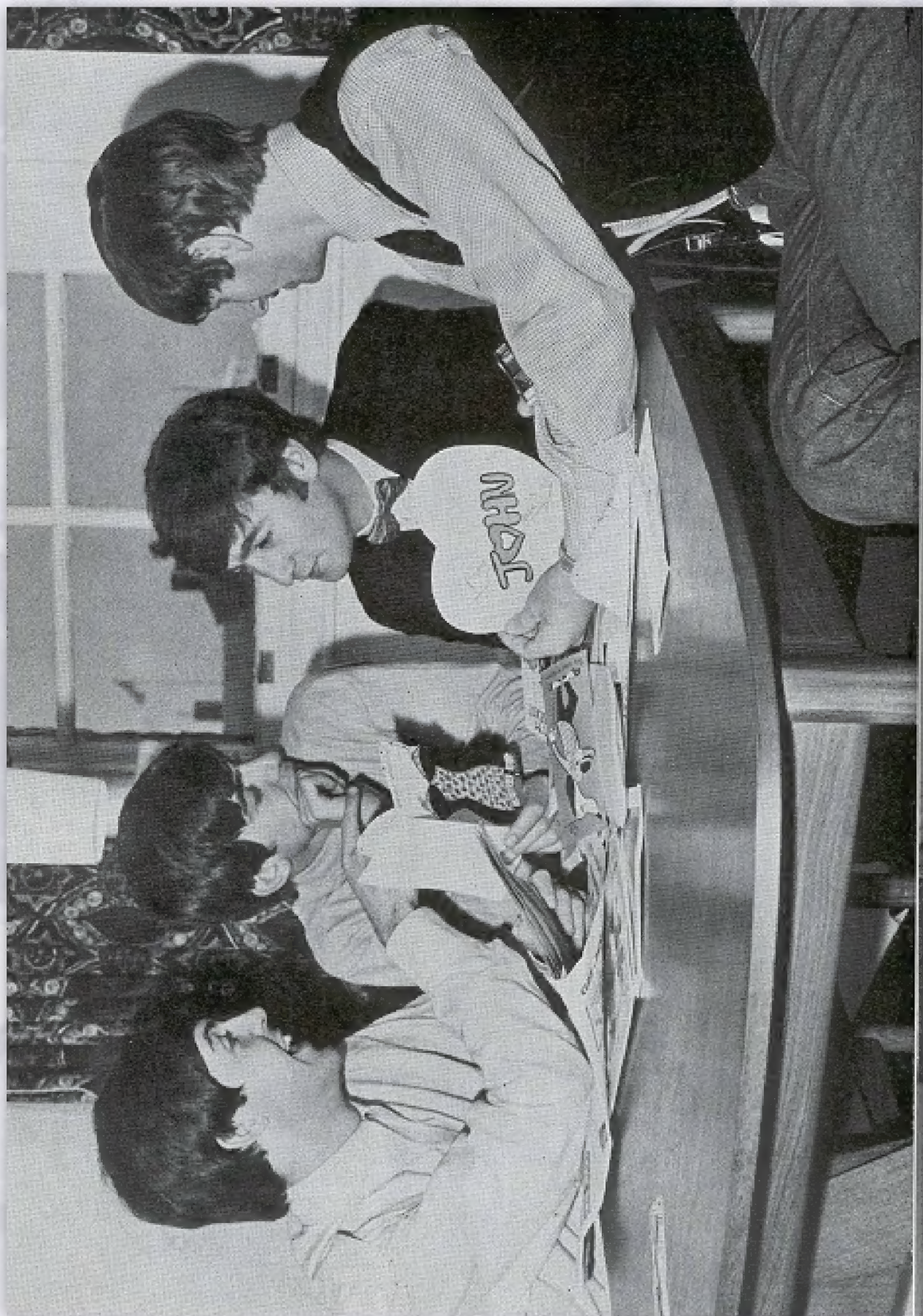
Beatles Fan Club National Secretaries Bettina Rose and Anne Collingham fear that some members of the official club may be persuaded to join some other local organisations in various parts of the country, which are using the name "Beatles" in the title without having any connection with the group. "We've had one report from Dundee" says Anne. "It appears that two men had opened up a completely unauthorised club in Dundee, which certainly hadn't the backing of us or The Beatles."

A complete list of all the Official Area Secretaries has been published in The Beatles Book and Fans are warned that

they should contact the London Headquarters at 13 Monmouth Street if they are asked to join any organisation whose name and address has not been published on the Fan Club pages.

FIRST BRITISH GOLD DISC?

IT HAS already been reported that "She Loves You" will earn the boys their first gold disc on a world wide sales basis. But NOW it looks certain that it will sell a million in THIS COUNTRY ALONE.



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